

**FAIRFIELD-NIRASAKI  
SISTER CITY PROGRAM:  
EXCHANGE STUDENT APPLICATION**

Congratulations on your interest in the Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Program!

Each year the City of Fairfield sends six students and a chaperone to Nirasaki, Japan, for a three-week student exchange during the month of July. During the visit, the students live in the homes of host families and participate in a wide variety of activities sponsored by our Sister City. Students have the opportunity to visit schools in Japan, tour historical and cultural sites, and experience the culture and lifestyle of a Japanese family. Students who have entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade as of Fall 2018 are eligible to apply.

The exchange involves certain expenses: airfare to and from Japan, the cost of a rail pass and 3-day excursion, gifts to the host family, and personal spending money for the trip. These costs normally total no more than \$2,800, depending on airfare costs and the current exchange rate. All other costs while in Japan are paid by the City of Nirasaki and the host families. Fundraisers may be organized by the students and their families, working with the Sister City Committee, to help with these expenses.

The selected students and their families are expected to participate in Sister City program activities, fundraising activities, and meetings for at least one year after the exchange trip, and to host a student visitor from Nirasaki during their winter exchange (December/January).

Please find attached an application form and two reference letters (to be filled out by teachers, school administrators, or community members who know you well). At least one letter must be from a teacher who has taught you in a classroom setting. The application and reference letters must be returned by **Thursday, January 24, 2019**, to:

Arletta Cortright, Chairperson  
Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Committee  
City of Fairfield  
City Manager's Office  
1000 Webster Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
(707) 426-5603 (home phone)  
[fairfieldsistercity@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldsistercity@gmail.com)

All applications will be reviewed and ranked, based on the responses to the questions in the application, reference letters, and the applicant's participation in the Sister City Program. Top-ranked applicants will be invited to attend an individual interview. Interviews are normally scheduled within three weeks after the application deadline, and are conducted by members of the Sister City Committee, usually on a Sunday. All applicants can expect to be notified of their status by letter or e-mail within three weeks after the application deadline. Selection of the members of the student group will be completed by the end of February. If you have any questions, please contact Arletta Cortright, committee chairperson.

**FAIRFIELD-NIRASAKI**  
**SISTER CITY PROGRAM**

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth\_\_\_\_\_ Gender\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

School\_\_\_\_\_ Grade level\_\_\_\_\_ G.P.A.\_\_\_\_\_

Father's/Guardian's Name\_\_\_\_\_ Occupation\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's/Guardian's Name\_\_\_\_\_ Occupation\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Brothers & Sisters \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you know about the Sister City Program? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you participated in any Sister City program activities? If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you want to go to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_

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What community/volunteer activities have you participated in? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What honors/awards/recognitions have you received? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a part-time job? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you speak any foreign languages? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Fluency (5 being highest) 5 4 3 2 1

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Fluency (5 being highest) 5 4 3 2 1

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Fluency (5 being highest) 5 4 3 2 1

What extra-curricular/athletic activities are you involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What artistic interests do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What qualities do you possess that would make you a good student ambassador? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to learn from your trip and how do you plan to share the things you learn with others? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How will you enrich the Sister City program after your trip to Japan? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Please describe your most meaningful travel experience, hosting experience, or experience with others outside your community. \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have any special dietary restrictions/allergies? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have any special medical problems/restrictions? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If, yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

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I have asked the following people to provide references for me (references should be from teachers, school administrators, community leaders, etc. At least one should be from a teacher.):

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**As a participant in the Sister City program, you and your family agree to:**

1. **Participate** in the Sister City activities and monthly meetings for at least one year following your trip to Japan.
2. **Host** a Japanese exchange student during the winter exchange.
3. **Provide your own funds for your trip** ---usually about \$2,800.
4. **Abide by the requirements and responsibilities** involved in representing your school, city, and the Sister City program (including dress code and any standards set forth by the Sister City Committee).
5. **Participate in all activities** during the trip to Nirasaki.
6. **Share your experiences** with fellow students and with the community.

By signing below, **I understand and agree to abide by the above requirements** and to represent responsibly the City of Fairfield and the Sister City Committee.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I feel that the Applicant has a clear understanding of the Sister City Exchange Program to Nirasaki, Japan, and, if selected, has my permission to participate. Furthermore, **I understand and agree to the requirements and responsibilities of the program, and am willing to participate as a host family.**

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCE LETTER

The following student has applied to be part of a three-week student exchange with the Fairfield-Nirasaki, Japan Sister City program. During this period, six local students will travel to Japan and will live with separate families in Fairfield's Sister City during the summer of 2019. Please provide a reference for this applicant and return this letter by January 24, 2019 to:

Arletta Cortright, Chairperson  
Fairfield-Nirasaki Sister City Committee  
City of Fairfield  
City Manager's Office  
1000 Webster Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
(707) 426-5603

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to the Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe why you feel the applicant should be selected as an exchange student.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Your relationship to the Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_